



WORK OF SHRINERS

Almas Temple, Mystic Shrine,
Devotes Day to Benevolence.

ITS ANNUAL CUSTOM

CHRISTMAS TREE FILLED WITH
GIFTS FOR CHILDREN.

Hundreds of Baskets Containing Sub-
stantials Distributed Among
the Deserving Poor.

The Mystic Shriners of this city are doing their full share today in the celebration of the greatest of Christian holidays. Almas Temple of Nobles of the Ancient and Arabic Order of the Mystic Shrine is holding away at National Rifles' Armory, distributing its customary Christmas baskets among many families and delighting the eyes and gladdening the hearts of thousands of little children. This organization of high degree Masons of Washington devotes itself every Christmas day to charity. Almas Temple is the largest single fraternal organization in this city. It has more than a thousand members, and all of these participated in some way in the hard, as well as good, work of making a merry Christmas for many.

All day yesterday and late into the night nobles of the temple in large numbers were at the armory, much busier than bees. The entire nobility of the temple had been appointed by Potentate Frank K. Raymond as a committee to arrange for the filling of the Christmas baskets and their distribution throughout the city. The scene at the temple, when the packing was completed, was a very pretty one. Hundreds of baskets, each containing the material for a large Christmas dinner, were arranged row on row, almost completely filling the entire floor space of the lower hall at the armory. In the center rose the handsome Christmas tree for children, which is the particular feature of the entertainment this after-

POLICE MAGISTRATES.

Reasons for their Appointment Given
by Maj. Sylvester.

"I fully agree with the recommendation made in his annual report concerning the Police Court," remarked a prominent member of the bar to a Star reporter. "The Police Court should certainly be abolished and magistrates appointed to perform the duty of trying police cases. There can certainly be no just reason why a place of amusement of this kind should be furnished the hundreds of people, I might say hangers on, who in this place of the twelve months in the year. People who are arrested on trivial charges should not be punished before they are tried, as is the case in many instances. It is an easy matter for a person to get a warrant for another because of prejudice, and as the records of the court will show, many such persons are acquitted after they have spent some time behind the bars. There are many other reasons why these petty cases should be disposed of more promptly."

Maj. Sylvester, he explained, has called this matter to the attention of the District Commissioners a number of times. In his report recently made public the chief of police had said this:

"As time advances and surroundings change the necessity for improvement in the system is more apparent. Those interested have only to investigate for themselves to know the awkwardness which attends the situation so far as the police are concerned. Last year members of the force were detained at the Police Court awaiting hearing of cases until after 11 o'clock a.m. in 2,000 instances. Not infrequently there is an arrest made during the hours of the night, and the member of the force making it is not only required to remain on the street until after 6 o'clock in the morning to finish his tour of duty, but he must repair to the Police Court without rest, perhaps without breakfast, and there remain until his case is tried. The merchant or professional man may be taken from his business as a witness. A prisoner may be acquitted, but he has been transported in a van or patrol wagon from the police station to the court after being incarcerated and unbathed like."

"To remedy this situation it is proposed that magistrates shall determine cases at the several station houses every morning and evening. These officers should each

noon for the little friends of Almas Temple. The potential of the temple and several chairmen of subcommittees and other active workers are shown in the illustration.

It was long after midnight when the work of filling and arranging the baskets and the assigning of different nobles to take charge of the work of distribution was completed.

Five O'Clock Distribution.

A few hours for sleep and the Shriners were at it again. At 5 o'clock this morning the delivery wagons began to leave the armory to distribute the baskets carrying Almas' Christmas greetings to the worthy and deserving whose names had been placed on its list. Fifteen hundred baskets were given this year, the largest number since Almas Temple began this form of Christmas observance. The temple lays no claim to having done all that could or should be done in this way, but its members are pleased that they have been able to do more than they did in previous years. The officers and nobles are particularly grateful for the assistance rendered there by many friends, enabling them to extend the good work they have so gladly done.

The delivery wagons carrying the Christmas gifts were to each and every part of the District of Columbia. Each wagon was in charge of a member of Almas Temple, who personally superintended the delivery of the baskets. Each wagon was loaded with a number of baskets, and each noble freely gave his services to the good cause. The men worked like horses and the horses worked like men until the arduous but enjoyable duty was performed. The District was divided into delivery routes, and each noble and his wagon distributed fifty of the Christmas baskets. The work began at 5 and was pressed so briskly that it was completed before 8 o'clock. Each basket held all the materials necessary to a hearty Christmas dinner for a good-sized family. The traditional Christmas turkey was, however, not a part of Almas' Christmas year. In the gobblers' stead a ten-pound ham reposed in every basket. The committee in charge of the distribution decided that hams would be much more suitable than turkeys, and thus flesh takes the place of fowl in the dinners of Islam's guests in the capital today. In previous years the nobles in charge of the delivery of Christmas baskets have reported that they found quite a number of the families whose names were on the temple's list without the facilities for cooking the turkeys, and that fact determined the change. "Less of the turkey and more of the ham," said Almas, and porkers instead of gobblers were slaughtered to make this holiday. In each basket was a ham, each basket contained a sack of flour, turkeys, sugar, a fat can of pork and beans and suitable quantities of coffee, rice and pota-

toes, the whole rounded off with turnips and cabbages.

RECEIVING AND SORTING CHRISTMAS MAIL.

The Lord Mayor's "Crumbs."

From the London Mail.

Dives feasted at the Guildhall on Monday night and Lazarus gathered up the crumbs yesterday morning.

"These 'crumbs' were of a substantial kind, consisting of plump ducks and chickens innocent of the carver's knife, joints of beef and mutton scarcely touched, game and pigeons, pies, toothsome entrees and sweets, vessels of turtle soup and leaves of bread in profusion.

Some half dozen long benches were spread with these 'crumbs' and the witnesses of the poor and the hungry, carrying capacious bags and baskets. At a given signal a dozen gentlemen in silk hats and frock coats, the latter half hidden by enormous white aprons, came into the hall. They were the lord mayor and sheriffs' committee, who are intrusted with the distribution of the tickets entitling the possessors to partake of this charity, and who always personally superintend the proceedings.

The tables were rapidly divided into twelve sections, and the holders of each committee's tickets were called up in batches. Marshaled by the police, they ranged themselves before the tables, and into their bags and baskets placed the generous provisions facing them. And thus it was that last night saw in London many lord mayor's banquets on a small scale.

RECEIVING AND SORTING CHRISTMAS MAIL.

THE WORK OF DECORATION.

This part of the good work finished, fresh relays of nobles conducted the decoration of the hall at the armory for the children's Christmas tree. Long, high heaps of pine stockings filled with candies and nuts took the place of the vanished baskets. There were thousands of pairs of these stockings, and they contained more than 3,000 pounds of candy, and many hundreds of pounds of the various kinds of nuts. Many ladies participated in the arrangement of the trees and the filling of the stockings. The work was completed before noon, and soon after Almas was ready to receive the calls of his little friends. Noble Will A. Haley and his entire band were on hand to direct the children, and the children were filled with the services of the band were donated for the occasion, and the music furnished by this noted organization was one of the finest features of the day.

A large number of ladies and gentlemen, including many persons prominent in public life and society, gathered at the armory to witness the giving of the stockings. A committee of the most active nobles had charge of this work, and Noble G. Hector Clemens, in Eskimo garb, appeared as the veritable Santa Claus of childhood song and story.

The Reception Begins.

At 1 o'clock the temple was ready for its reception, and a stream of young children has been filling in from that hour. As each child passes the long table on which Santa Claus and his willing helpers are standing each one receives a pair of stockings, one filled with candy and the other with nuts, and then passes on to give way to others. The little visitors are, of course, allowed to remain as long as they please to enjoy the decorations and the music. A few were delighted, but it is to be doubted that with all their pleasure the children were as happy in the entertainment as the members of Almas, and their ladies and their friends were in being able to give it.

GAVE LUCK THE GO-BY.

Senator Teller Misses Chance to Make
a Fortune.

Senator Teller of Colorado will never forget Christmas day, 1890. It was on that Christmas morning he allowed to slip through his hands a chance to make a million dollars without putting up a single

shot.

"I have often thought that if our coming had in some manner delayed the President's attendance at Ford's Theater on that fatal night, if his visit had been postponed how history would have been changed, the plans of the conspirators upset, and the life of Mr. Lincoln perhaps preserved.

"We marched around on K street near 14th at the Stanton residence, where General Gilmore addressed us, and then proceeded to the Seward residence on Madison place opposite Lafayette Square. As we were marching down Pennsylvania avenue near the National Theater an officer in full dress uniform came running wildly up, shouting 'Stop the music; the President has been assassinated!'

"I ran ahead to the front of the column and stopped the band. We could not realize the full import of the officer's words, but in a few minutes the streets were filled with troops and people, and then ensued a scene of excitement such as few men have witnessed and but never to be forgotten by those within the limits of the city at that time.

"But the park is memorable in not only being the execution grounds of the Lincoln conspirators, but as the spot where one of the greatest if not the most terrible accidents in the history of the city happened. The event will be recalled by the younger generations.

Washington's Most Fearful Accident.

Amputation was manufactured in several buildings in the arsenal in large quantities, and an immense quantity of powder was stored there. The old style paper-drum cartridges were made. One day near the close of the war a man named Tom Brown

dollar. Two of Senator Teller's friends proposed to purchase the Robert E. Lee mine at Leadville. They were able to buy it for \$100,000. On Christmas morning they called around to see Mr. Teller, told him what they proposed to do and urged him to take a one-third interest in the property. "But I haven't the money," protested Mr. Teller.

"It makes no difference," he was told. "You can give your notes, and before they come due we'll take from the mine more gold than will be necessary to pay them."

"But suppose we don't realize our expectations?" suggested the senator, with caution.

"Then we will put up the money to meet the notes, and you need not trouble about them."

Senator Teller was assured that his friends knew exactly what they had in hand, but he didn't go in. He thought as he had not the money to put into the undertaking he had no right to reap the reward if there was one. He was assured that they wanted him in the deal, but no persuasion could get him to accept the offer. One month later the Robert E. Lee mine had yielded \$200,000 of gold and in a year a total of \$1,500,000 was taken out. It proved to be one of the richest pockets of gold that have ever been found.

Canada and the U. S. A.

From the Woodstock (Canada) Express.

It may be the destiny of Canada to become a part of the United States some time in the future, no one knows; but if the time should ever come when Canada would be found knocking at the doors of the republic it would be only after Canadians had attempted to realize their own dreams and had failed.

OLD ARSENAL GROUNDS

CHANGES MADE AND CONTEMPORATED FOR WAR COLLEGE.

It Was There the assassins of President Lincoln Were Tried and Executed.

Few persons, even among the residents of Washington, and scarcely any among our visitors who wander through the beautiful grounds of the arsenal water park on the Potomac at the foot of 4th street remember or realize that the trial of Mrs. Surratt and others charged with conspiracy to assassinate President Lincoln was held in the old penitentiary building formerly there, and that the conspirators were executed almost upon the spot between the two large main buildings in the center of the grounds now occupied by the flower beds and sparkling fountain which separate the main driveway at this point.

This historic park is about to be further changed by the expenditure of several millions of dollars in new buildings and other improvements going with the new army college, but it will ever remain, even if its story be forgotten by most of us, one of the most historic places situated within the limits of the District.

There are probably very few, if any, residents of the capital still living who actually witnessed the execution, though there are some who were in the park without being cognizant of the eventful day. Among these is Officer Robert Burns, a veteran on the local police force, and who is assigned for night duty at police headquarters. Mr. Burns is filled with interesting reminiscences, and in remarking this morning to a Star man upon the change in the scene of the execution grounds since the war he said:

The Old Prison and Its Inmates.

"There is great difference between the fine, well-kept park today and the same spot during the war. Half of it, on the James Creek canal side, was a marsh, and there were none of the beautiful large trees under the shade of which our residents now wander in the summer time by the seashore."

"Four-and-a-half street stopped at P street, which lines the grounds on the north now, but it is my recollection that long ago, after the war, there was a fence of some kind here, while farther on in the grounds around and forbidding the dark walls of the penitentiary, inclosing this gloomy building, made famous by the great trial of the Lincoln conspirators held therein."

One of the finest features of the day was the execution of the day. The two large residences facing each other, and which are now used as quarters for the commandant and other higher officers stationed at the post, are the east and west wings of the penitentiary building removed to the rear of the old prison make today attractive, old-fashioned residences from the exterior, and not one person in a million would suspect that the walls of the prison, and that their windows overlooked the most historic execution ever held in this country.

Yes, I was in the grounds on the day of the execution, and I had been in the employ of the government and stationed there. I was a machinist and one of a small army of men who were engaged in the repair of the guns and other arms and ammunition on the battlefield made over and returned to the service.

"I recall that the public were rigidly excluded and that the number of persons allowed within the walls of the prison were few. I had visited the court of execution. I did not care to see it, and would not have done so unless I had been ordered in line of duty."

Other Historic Features of the Park.

"Yes, there was a great deal of talk among the men at the time as to the exact place of the interior of the bodies, and there has always been a difference of opinion where the bodies were buried and as to their subsequent disposal. I well remember that on the day of the execution the bodies were maintained as to their interment, and this secrecy was afterwards not relaxed. Beyond the laborers who were engaged in the work, and the few in authority I doubt if any one knew their disposition."

"The body of Mrs. Surratt is said to have been reinterred in Mount Olivet cemetery. There is a monument erected to her memory there. I believe that it is understood that the other bodies were disinterred and buried elsewhere, while other reports have it that they were destroyed in the usual manner by quicklime."

President Lincoln was assassinated upon a Friday night. The men in the arsenal had planned for a torchlight procession with patriotic transparencies for that night. The intention being to serenade the President and Secretary Stanton. There were about 1,700 of us, and we marched up town to the White House where singing and music were going on. The President had been told that the President had gone to the theater, and we were much disappointed.

History Might Have Been Changed.

"I have often thought that if our coming had in some manner delayed the President's attendance at Ford's Theater on that fatal night, if his visit had been postponed how history would have been changed, the plans of the conspirators upset, and the life of Mr. Lincoln perhaps preserved."

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THE MAIL CARRIER AT WORK.

Merry Xmas.

The Palais Royal is closed today—and this announcement was written yesterday evening. The Palais Royal proprietor and his employees are to enjoy a merry Christmas—tired, but buoyed up with the knowledge of a holiday business simply phenomenal and indicating not only the increased popularity of the store, but the evident certainty of G street figuring as the coming street. A merry Christmas to the Palais Royal's growing army of friends and patrons.

Tomorrow's After-Christmas Sale.

25

20

10

Per Cent Discount.
(In the Men's Corner.)

Choice of all Imported Smoking
Tables marked at various prices from
\$1.25 to \$14.98. You deduct one-quarter
from the price marked on any you
select.

Choice of all Smokers' Articles—a
grand collection—ticketed 25c and up
to \$4.98 each.

Any Traveling Set—those of leather
with toilet needs inside. Prices range
from 98c to \$20 the set.

Collar and Cuff Boxes are here at
49c to \$4.50.

Drinking Flasks are here from the
simplest to the most elaborate. Prices
range from 50c to \$5 each.

Writing Tablets are here of various
leathers at 49c to \$10—less 25 per
cent discount.

Go to "The Men's Corner" for any
of the above articles—and save one-
quarter is deducted from the marked
price.

Per Cent Discount.
(In Various Departments.)

Choice of the Ladies' and Men's
Silk Umbrellas at \$5 and \$10 and
Ladies' Rain Coats at \$15.98 to \$25—
at 20 per cent discount.

Go to second floor for Silks and
Wool Dress Goods—secure a saving of 20
per cent.

Any Traveling Set—those of leather
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of the above articles—and save one-
quarter is deducted from the marked
price.

Per Cent Discount.
(On Various Floors.)

Choice of the famous Rogers A1
Table Silver. One-tenth off the less-
than-usual prices. First floor.

Any of the highly ornamental
Table Lamps you'll find in basement
can be yours at one-tenth less than
the marked price.

Third floor for the Children's Fur
Sets and High-class Cloth and Silk
Coats at 10 per cent discount.

Basement floor for Cut Glass at
one-tenth less than the price marks
tell you.

Shakers, Salt and Pepper, 25c to 98c.
Bottles, Glass, and Vases, 98c to \$3.98.
Bottles, Water, \$1.00 to \$7.98.
Pitchers, Water, \$2.25 to \$12.98.
Bowls, Fruit, \$3.98 to \$19.98.
Trays, Spoon, \$1.75 to \$6.00.
Vases, Flower, \$8.25 to \$15.00.
Bowls, Punch, \$3.00 to \$65.00.
Note that less than usual prices
are marked on these Cut
Glass pieces.

Per Cent Discount.
(On Basement Floor.)

Choice of the Blouse Busts ticketed
at various prices from \$5 to \$14. See
you buy at one-half the marked
price. And when on this basement
floor don't fail to look and find
other equally good bargains.

Tables Full at 25c, 49c, 75c and 98c.

For your convenience and ours great tables are to be filled with presents, at so much for choice. To assure rapid sales greatly reduced prices are quoted in all departments on all floors.

Basement Floor.

The tables devoted to Brice-a-brac
will be the leading feature. Pieces
that were 49c are to go on "the 25c
tables." Pieces worth 75c are to be
on the 49c table. The 75c table is to
contain while \$1 pieces, while the
98c table will contain Vases, Urns,
Jars, Busts and Figures worth up to
\$3.

Second Floor.

The tables on this floor will contain
Dress Goods which will be cut in
waist and dress patterns; Dress
Trimmings, Laces and Linings which
may be included. And here are Table
Linen, Towels, Bedwear, etc.—all
at reduced prices.

On First Floor.

Note that Ladies' Pocket Books
worth up to \$3.50 are to go on one of
the 98c tables.

Note, too, that Silver-plated Pieces
worth up to \$1.00 are to go on the
75c table.

Stop at "the 25c table" at G street
door, and find articles worth 50c and
up.

Go to the Art Department and find
Celluloid and other Fancy Boxes
worth \$1 on the 50c table.

Go to "The Men's Corner" and find
Drinking Flasks, Smoking Sets, Sil-
ver-plated Glass Vases, worth up to
\$1 on "the 49c table."

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On Third Floor.

Here are the bright and cozy
Eiderdown Sackies, here, too, are
Waists, Skirts, Wrappers, Aprons
and Caps, Furs for Ladies and Chil-
dren, Fashions, Warm, Night
Robes and little children's garments
of every description. And Corsets—
think of best \$5 French Corsets for
only \$1.98. They are here.

On Fourth Floor.

Suggestions here include Furniture,
the odd pieces that make such ac-
ceptable gifts. Rugs, too; Rich
Tapestry Portieres and Lace Cur-
tains. Art Pictures in Art Frames—
at 20 per cent discount—one-fifth off
marked prices.

Palais Royal, A. Lisner, G & 11th Sts.

was experimenting with some fireworks he
was attempting to make. He placed the
powder in some small tin can and the
near of the cartridge-making buildings.

It ignited and the blazing squibs flew
into the open windows among the loose powder.
Fire and explosion resulted, and twenty-one
fortunate girls and women were burned
to death. Brown was not injured.

"The scene was indescribably horrifying.
I was in a shop some distance from the
scene of the disaster, and the screams of
the mangled and burned unfortunates
was sickening, as was the sight of their torn
and mangled bodies. There was the greatest
excitement at the post, for apart from the
explosion with its awful results the big
powder magazines were in immediate dan-
ger of catching fire and had they exploded
as was feared until the troops got the fire
under control, the loss of life and destruc-
tion of property would have been terrible
owing to the large number of men in the
immediate vicinity who could not have es-
caped."

A monument stands today in the Con-
gressional cemetery in memory of these
poor women, their names being inscribed
upon the shaft."

NAVAL PROVING GROUNDS.

Why Indian Head is Not Entirely
Satisfactory.

"Notwithstanding the fact that a great
deal of work is successfully carried on at
the proving grounds at Indian Head, Md.,
said Rear Admiral O'Neill, chief of the bu-
reau of naval ordnance, in a recent com-
munication to the Secretary of the Navy,
"the fact should be made known to the de-
partment that it is by no means as satis-
factory for its purposes as it formerly was.
The great increase in the power of guns of
recent years, and their greatly extended
range, renders a more isolated location nec